



Montgomery County Council

From the office of Councilmember Phil Andrews

News Release

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ON OFFICIAL "FIRST DAY OF WINTER"...

ANDREWS ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH CASA OF MARYLAND TO HELP RESIDENTS CLEAR SNOW & ICE FROM COUNTY SIDEWALKS

Law will help improve pedestrian safety

Councilmember Phil Andrews today used the official "First Day of Winter" to announce plans to help County residents who need assistance to comply with the new county-wide requirements to clear their sidewalks of ice and snow. It will be in effect for the first snowfall of the winter.

On a seasonably blustery day, Councilmember Andrews was joined on the County Council Building steps by a dozen snow-shovel-toting workers, Rockville mayor Larry Giammo, and school leaders.

"I'm happy to announce that CASA of Maryland has agreed to dispatch workers to help those County residents who need a hand to clear their sidewalks," said Councilmember Andrews, who, along with Councilmember Isiah Leggett and Council President Steve Silverman, sponsored the legislation that passed last spring.

The law is similar to residential snow-clearing requirements already in effect in Rockville, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, Kensington, and Chevy Chase, as well as in Prince George's County, the District of Columbia, and Alexandria.

By calling 301-431-4185, County residents can put themselves on CASA's list to have their sidewalks cleared of snow and ice.

Councilmember Andrews said that already 90 residents had contacted his office for assistance, nearly all of whom said they could pay to have the work done.

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“This gives men and women who want to work a chance to help support their families and it serves our community by helping to clear the walks,” said CASA executive director Gustavo Torres. He said the cost for an average house and sidewalk would be \$25, perhaps less in some cases and a little more for big lots. CASA will supply transportation for the workers and take the phone calls for assistance from residents. No County funds would be expended on the program.

“Rockville has had this requirement for 15 years and it’s worked well, “ said new Rockville mayor Larry Giammo. “It’s not a burden, but rather a chance to build strong communities.

“It’s vitally important because sidewalks are the only link for many people – including our schoolchildren, our seniors, people with disabilities, and those who use mass transit.”

Former Argyle Middle School principal Judy Dacca seconded that.

“When we have a big snowfall, I’ve seen my students having to walk in the streets along Bel Pre Road, a busy east-west thoroughfare, because sidewalks weren’t cleared,” she explained.

“I think it’s great that Mr. Andrews has gone the extra mile in arranging help for those who need a hand,” said PTA leader Gail Melson. “I became concerned about this issue several years ago when my daughters had to walk in the street next to traffic because walks weren’t cleared.”

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